GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2677
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
INTER SERVICE AREA CONNECTIVITY
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to provide inter-service area connectivity between access providers for terminating traffic of each other in some States terming the mobile to mobile, mobile to fixed line and fixed line to mobile as local calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such plan is in the pipeline for other States also;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total loss likely to be suffered by the BSNL on this account; and

(f) the details of steps proposed to be taken by the BSNL in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) The Government has permitted on 20.05.2005 inter-service area connectivity between access providers for terminating traffic of each other in the States of Maharashtra (Mumbai Metro and Maharashtra Telecom Circle Service Areas), Tamilnadu (Chennai Metro and Tamilnadu Telecom Circle Service Areas), Uttar Pradesh [including Uttaranchal UP(East) and UP(West) Telecom Circle Service Areas] and West Bengal (Kolkata Metro and West Bengal Telecom Circle Service Areas) With this arrangement, calls within a State in above mentioned States are treated as intra-service area calls. The dialing procedures for calls within a State for these States have also been simplified and for calls from mobile to mobile and fixed to mobile subscribers may not be required to prefix `0`.

(c) & (d) Within all other States except certain towns in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Panchkula, the above facility is also available.

(e) & (f) Reduction in tariff for calls within the States along with simplification of the dialing procedure which has enabled even the Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD) barred customers to make calls outside their service area in the same State, will result in increase in traffic which may compensate Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) for the loss, if any, on this account.